

**Autism Committee Minutes**  
**January 9, 2009**

**Present:** Debbie Barrows, parent; Mary Ellen Stives, AB XIII; Robbin Kulek, AB XIII; Dan Clark, SDRC; Wendy Smith, HGH/parent; Jenny Mays, SDUSD; Lori Kay, ABXIII; Lisa Fisher, parent; Tina Waters, CCC Kids; Shelly Van Brabant, parent; Rochelle Lynch, ABXIII; George and Audrey McFaddin, grandparents; Maria Rodriguez, parent

Meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

**Committee Membership 2009 and Overview of Bagely-Keene Open Meeting Act**

Robbin Kulek reviewed the past 2 years of committee activities, and stated she is open to changing meeting time/date if that works out better for members. She then requested people consider if they want to become a voting member, and had Mary Ellen explain the difference between “membership” and community participation.

Basically, the By-Laws of ABXIII state:

“When necessary and appropriate, Area Board 13 Ad Hoc committees may request professional representatives of agencies and individuals from the community to be members of such committee. All members, unless otherwise specified, shall be entitled to vote.”

The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act states:

“Since one of the purposes of the Act is to protect and serve the interests of the general public to monitor and participate in meetings of state bodies, bodies covered by the Act are prohibited from imposing any conditions on attendance at a meeting. For example, while the Act does not prohibit use of a sign-in sheet, notice must be clearly given that signing-in is voluntary and not a pre-requisite to either attending the meeting or speaking at the meeting.”

Therefore, joining the committee would entitle the participant to a vote if matters come up that need to be voted on, whereas those people who do not choose to join cannot vote.

Whichever people choose to do, the committee welcomes your participation! If you would like to join as a member, please email Mary Ellen at [Maryellen.stives@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:Maryellen.stives@scdd.ca.gov).

**2008/2009 Goals**

Discussion focused on 2008 goals and accomplishments and if the committee wanted to continue with these areas of focus or come up with new goals for 2009.

2008 Accomplishments:

- The home in Fallbrook will be open 2 years in April. Dan Clark from the San Diego Regional Center stated that there are 15 negotiated rate homes – most are for adults, and 2 or 3 will take children. SAILS are also willing to take adolescents with autism, although this is not what they focus on exclusively. TERI is getting ready to open another home that will be licensed by Health Care.
- Establishing crisis placements continues to be a need

- Discussion occurred regarding training for parents regarding what they might encounter when their children become adolescents. Debbie reminded the group that at the last meeting it was suggested the case managers be trained, since they are the broadest point of contact to families. It was decided that SDRC staff, families and vendors all needed training, so various options to accomplish this were discussed. Robbin also suggested that doctors be trained on how to educate parents/caregivers on the effects of medication change and the challenges of adolescents.
- Transition and Quality, Community based day programs for adolescents and adults continue to be a need. Easter Seals has a program in Imperial for after school, and school break. Robbin suggested that maybe ACES or IEE would be willing to start up a community based after school program since they already have the expertise and the facility. Jenny said the Urban Skills Center had wanted to open a program at IEE, but the funding was not adequate to pay staff a high enough wage.
- Ongoing support for the Autism community. Providing ongoing information for the community is something the group would like to continue, and the police officer from Palomar College, Brian Herriot, was requested to return to talk to the group about the training he is putting together for law enforcement.

### **Old/New Business**

Wendy announced that there will be another Life Planning starting soon, and she will send the information to the committee.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in the Mission Valley Library. Brian Herriot has stated he will be there, unless something unforeseen arises.

### **Action Items:**

#### **1. Members should come prepared to discuss goals for 2009. Does the committee want to continue with the following goals?**

Crisis placement/training

- Assist in establishing a permanent crisis facility in San Diego County for adolescents in crisis
- Proactive training for parents/caregivers on what to expect during the adolescent years

Transition Day Programs for individuals with Autism

- Assist in ensuring that San Diego and Imperial County have quality community based programs

Continue to provide on-going support to parents/caregivers

#### **2. E-mail Mary Ellen at [maryellen.stives@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:maryellen.stives@scdd.ca.gov) if you are interested in becoming an active committee member**